

**Abstract**

A method of improving and/or prolonging sperm viability which comprises contacting spermatozoa with an isolated, cell-free, protein obtainable from a peripheral membrane fraction of oviductal apical plasma membrane (APM), or a fragment or derivative therefrom, the protein having a molecular weight of between approximately 10 kDa and 100 kDa, which finds use in maintenance of sperm viability to increase the success rate of artificial insemination (AI).